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PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

AS TO

INSTRUCTION IN FARMING

IN

CANADA & THE NORTH-WEST,

AND THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

“Angustam amice pauperiem pati
Robustus acri militia puer
Condiscat.” —*Horace.* Carm. iii. 2.

EIGHTH EDITION, REVISED

BY

FORD, RATHBONE, AND WALTER,

21, FINSEURY PAVEMENT, LONDON, E.C.

P R E F A C E

The AMERICAN COLONISATION COMPANY is a private undertaking, with a complete organisation on both sides of the Atlantic, which ensures a thorough fulfilment abroad of every engagement entered into here.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS
AS TO
INSTRUCTION IN FARMING
IN
*Canada and the North-West, and the
United States of America.*

*A Self-supporting Occupation and Opening in Life for
Gentlemen's Sons, and a prudent way of starting for any
who desire to engage in Agriculture in America.*

YOUNG gentlemen desiring to learn American agriculture and stock raising thoroughly, with the view, when they have gained sufficient experience, of commencing work on farms of their own, can be placed with carefully-chosen farmers in the best districts either of the United States or Canada, where they will receive board and residence in addition to monthly pay, so that from the commencement they can be self-supporting and start successfully.

Objects and
Scope of the
System.

The system requires on the part of the pupil the same attention to the farm and actual labour as the owner of the farm and his sons are accustomed to bestow upon it, and almost any one who has thus learned farming can engage in it profitably on his own account ; (1) by the purchase of land for cash ; (2) on time payments extending over a term of years ; (3) by joining the farmer he is placed with, or some of his English companions ; (4) by taking a farm on the share system, a plan commonly adopted in the States ; (5) by acquiring 160 acres freehold, and free of cost, under the

Homestead* Act. In either of the last two methods he can, if necessary, commence with little or no capital beyond that which he may save out of his earnings ; and though the progress then will be slower at first, it is the way in which many, and in some districts the majority, of American farmers begin.

The leading principle of the system we have originated is to make the young men self-supporting from the first, and in this way the self-reliance so necessary to success in a new country can best be acquired. To send them out without the imposed obligation to work and to earn honest payment for their services would not lead to habits of industry, and to that practical acquaintance with every part of the business without which they could not safely be hereafter trusted with farms of their own ; and the farmer himself would not have such control over them as would ensure his being able to teach them properly.

The farmers selected to receive young men are chiefly those cultivating from 160 to 600 acres as mixed grain and stock farms, which are the size and description most general in the States ; and as it would probably be on farms of this acreage that the majority of those going out would commence for themselves, it is unquestionably better for them to gain their experience in this manner than on larger farms ; those, however, who desire to learn on larger farms, and can afterwards command the capital necessary to start and carry them on, can be suitably placed for that purpose, though the advice in all cases is that they should commence in the smaller way.

To those who prefer an active out-of-door life to the

* The fees on entering a Homestead amount to about £3, and absolute title is given after proof of five years' residence and cultivation each year of some portion. A capital of £100 would be sufficient to enable a young Englishman to commence in a small way for himself. It may be observed, however, that many Americans start successfully with even smaller amounts.

sedentary occupation of an office, or who seek, but are unable to find, an opening in England which will permit them to earn an income and maintain themselves, this occupation must specially commend itself; for the life is a manly, honest, self-reliant, and healthy one, and a substantial living can be the result.

But whilst it offers an assured future to those who will acquire habits of industry, and are content to live soberly and economically, *it is not desired to suggest change* to such as have already settled occupations here, or to cause the slightest feeling of disappointment to those who go out through any highly-coloured representations of the life.

Experience has shown that the best and proper way to ^{How to learn.} start farming is by learning the business thoroughly at the outset in the manner here suggested, and without the aid of capital. Capital is of little or no use without experience, or, at any rate, a fair knowledge of farming. Of course, where capital is wanting, progress will be slower at first; but whilst on the one hand there are many who have started without money and are yet prosperous, there are many more, especially among the English, who, after beginning farming with considerable capital, have lost it for lack of industry and experience.

The course here recommended is, that the learner should ^{Practical Experience} go out with a view to live and work precisely as the farmers themselves, their sons, and their men do, because the proper plan for any one who intends to engage in farming is first to acquire this practical knowledge and experience, even if he have, or should hereafter have, the command of capital; and it is the only way in which those starting without capital, or with only a moderate amount, can become successful.

As to the work to be learned, it is the custom for farmers, ^{Nature of Work}

especially in Canada and the Western States, to do the work themselves with but little hired help, and it is necessary, therefore, for a pupil not to be above learning to use his hands. Personal labour is not considered in the least derogatory in America, but is regarded as a title to social respect; and as hired labour is generally expensive, especially at busy seasons of the year, such as harvest, it is customary for a farmer to exchange work with his neighbour; the new settler, therefore, stands at a disadvantage if, through being unable or unwilling to work, he is compelled to hire labour, or if his two days' time are only worth his neighbour's one day.

Those, therefore, who do not propose to learn farming by actively helping with the daily work, but wish to idle about towns, or only to ride about and overlook others, are not recommended to go under this system; for, though they might honestly believe they were doing all that was necessary for their future success, they would eventually find they had been acquiring only habits of idleness, never becoming thoroughly independent, but making constant demands for money on their friends at home, and permanently prejudicing their prospects.

This plain view of the matter is expressed in the interest only of the pupil and his friends. We are far from painting a success to be acquired without labour, or advocating a system under which we could easily, if so desired, place young men with farmers or other residents, who would be willing to receive them on moderate annual payments without expecting their help or exertions.

Nor can a residence with English gentlemen be recommended to those who go out to really learn farming, for, though there are English families settled in various districts in comfortable homes, they are usually officers or other

gentlemen who, having but recently gone out, are only themselves learning American farming, and are, therefore, not qualified to teach it ; these gentlemen, moreover, usually require high terms as payment for board and residence, however long the pupil may remain (often as much as £100 a year), and usually give no pay ; so that the young men neither become self-supporting, nor are taught as an American farmer who has begun without money and made his own way would be able to teach them ; and unless they have acquired the knowledge of detail and habits of work and steadiness which a practical training gives, they will not be likely to succeed in the management of land or farms of their own ; it is not only knowing how to do the work, but the habit of actually doing it which is so necessary for their success when they start for themselves.

As to the country or district to be selected, there is no Selection of Country. doubt that North America has an advantage on the score of distance over most of the English colonies. Not only are Australia and New Zealand far distant, and the cost of the journey very great, but it now requires considerable capital to succeed in these colonies ; the Cape has few advantages, and the constant difficulties with the natives form a serious obstacle to settlement there. North America is provided with perfect railway communication ; Quebec and New York, its principal ports, are within ten days of Liverpool, and the mails are dispatched nearly every day.

In reference to the most desirable parts for settlement, the “Standard,” in commenting upon recent emigration statistics, says :—

“ When we glance at the direction taken by the human flood which in June poured out of the Mersey, we find as usual that the great Republic obtained the greatest share of the fertilising overflow of the Old Continent. Of these 26,688 people, 22,565 were bound for the United States, 3,837 for Canada, 40 for Australia, 173 for South America, and

31 for Africa, by which may be understood the Cape and Natal. . . . It may be, therefore, said in general terms that last month's emigrants went entirely to the United States and Canada. . . . The great distances of the South African and Australian colonies are a drawback to their settlement. With the exception of New Zealand, and of Tasmania in a less degree, they present but small attractions to the tiller of the soil."

Selection of
District

Minnesota
and Iowa.

Wisconsin.

Ontario.

Manitoba.

Kentucky.

Missouri.

The district at first selected by the founders of this agency was that of Southern Minnesota and Upper Iowa, a country exceptionally healthy. The climate is hotter in summer and colder in winter than in England, but the seasons are very enjoyable, the atmosphere is clear, dry, and bracing, and no rain falls during the winter months, which are much more healthy than in England.

The same characteristics of temperature, soil, and climate are also found in Southern Wisconsin, to which State we are now sending pupils, and the farm-houses and appointments are usually better than in the first-named districts. The best parts of Canada also offer an excellent field for learning farming, probably better than any of the Prairie States, though the prairies give better opportunities for buying land at low prices or starting a farm. We have selected, therefore, the province of Ontario, as being one of the best districts in Canada, and eminently suited for those who desire to gain a thorough knowledge of farm and country, and yet wish to settle under English laws; and Manitoba, where the finest wheat is raised on a soil of unexampled fertility, and the crops have never yet failed. Many prefer the milder winter climate and more equal seasons of some of the Southern States, and these we shall be able to place in the well-known blue grass region of Kentucky and richest parts of Missouri and Nebraska, abounding in cattle, where the farms are large, and the homes often more attractive than in the north. Missouri is a great agricultural and stock-raising State, and blue grass grows as luxuriantly as it does in Kentucky.

There are great natural advantages for the successful growing of fruits, flowers, and vegetables. In Nebraska Indian corn Nebraska as well as other grain is largely grown, and cattle-breeding is a profitable occupation in this State. We need only say of Texas that which all men allow, that the rich pasture of Texas this State makes it unrivalled as a stock-raising country, and that we have selected a healthy station in a quiet and fertile district. A training at any of the stations provided by us for pupils qualifies them for settling in any part of the United States, Canada, or Manitoba, where free lands are to be had ; and their judgment in selecting a favourable locality for operations will be much assisted by the experience gained in their course of tuition.

The farmhouses in all of the Western districts are usually ^{Homes.} unpretentious, smaller than in England, and not adorned with gardens ; the living also is generally plainer than that which young men well brought up here have been accustomed to, especially in the mode of cooking, which is indifferent, but the diet is plentiful and there is everywhere what may be termed a rough abundance.

The people are orderly, sober, honest, energetic, and ^{The Farmers.} steady ; and the farmers, who have been carefully selected to receive the pupils, are among the best and most respected in the community, and often fill posts in the local Government or administration. They will in each case do all in their power to make those they receive comfortable, provided the latter are industrious, steady, and docile.

Usually only one pupil will be placed on a farm, never ^{The Pupil.} more than two ; and in every instance a separate bedroom is stipulated for, unless expressly stated to the contrary : some of the farmers wish to take two pupils, but though the companionship of another young Englishman might be very agreeable, it is not considered to their ultimate advantage to

be together. They will be more under the influence of the farmer and more interested in their work when on separate farms.

Expenditure
and Allow-
ance.

The cost of clothes and necessary expenditure need not exceed £10 a year, and can be provided out of their pay. Young men going out inexperienced would not at first be worth more than their board, but in the agreement made on their behalf with the farmers it is stipulated that they shall receive from £1 to £2 a month, in addition to board and residence, for the first twelve months or more, according to age, ability, and the custom of the locality ; after that time they are worth more, and can in some cases earn as much as £4 a month throughout the year, if they are strong, capable, and industrious ; but having by this time acquired self-reliance and experience in the business, they would be able, and probably prefer, to bargain on their own account, until they are ready to take land or farms of their own.

Period of
Instruction.

A probation of from one to three years is sufficient to confer such a thorough knowledge of farming as will qualify them to start on their own account, with a good prospect of success.

Essentials to
Future Suc-
cess.

In corroboration of the views advanced in the present and previous editions of this pamphlet, respecting the necessity for some such probationary time being spent on an American farm before any investment of capital is made, the following extract is given from a speech by Mr. J. Walter, M.P. for Berkshire, and of the "Times" newspaper, who, in saying that he—

"Had some experience of the emigration of English farmers to America believed it would be greatly to their advantage, and would materially advance their object, if they would serve a very few years of apprenticeship before they entered upon their career as farmers. . . . To succeed as an emigrant farmer there should be at first, on one side or other of the Atlantic, an apprenticeship, so to say, to the business."

In a subsequent speech Mr. Walter says :—

“ I am firmly persuaded that America will become more a field of enterprise to thousands of English gentlemen, farmers, and other classes of people. . . . Before the close of next century there will be a population of 200 millions in the United States, and what I wish is that more Englishmen would go out there.”

The work required is hard, and a sound constitution is ^{Work and Recreation} essential, but the health and physical capacity are improved by the regular exercise, and there is plenty of recreation ; for at certain seasons of the year, especially in Canada or the West, there is not so much to be done on the farm, and some time is then pleasantly spent in social enjoyments ; sport also is plentiful.

As to the profits to be derived from farming, the occupation should afford an income comparatively free from anxiety for the maintenance of a family and a provision for the future :—and further, it may be stated that there are some cases in which farmers in some of the States referred to commenced without capital and have realised from £10,000 to £20,000, or more, from farming : this result is exceptional ; it is, however, by no means exceptional to see farmers who came into the country originally without any money at all now well-to-do and thriving. The advantages of superior education which most young Englishmen have received will, if they show equal industry with their American neighbours, ensure their becoming influential and respected members of the community, progress being much more rapid, and openings for advancement, both in agricultural and commercial life, much more numerous in America than in England. The author of “ To-Day in America,” says :—

“ Life in America must have special charms for young Englishmen who have to make their way in the world.”

Total Outlay.

The total outlay necessary for entering on an American farm in the manner here indicated, according to local advantages, size, and quality, under the auspices of this agency, is:—For premium, in Iowa, £50; Minnesota, £60; in Canada, £60, £80, and £100; in Wisconsin, Manitoba, Missouri, Nebraska, and Texas, £70; and in Kentucky, £80; beyond which there is no charge whatever, either annual or otherwise, and the only further expense is the cost of the journey, and such outfit as may be taken. The graduation of the premium depends on the style and characteristics of the farm.

Premiums.

These premiums cover the amount paid to the farmer as well as the agency here, and also the payment to the local agents who receive and place the pupils on suitable farms, and who continue, from time to time, to advise them and see to their welfare; the proportion paid to the farmer is in each case specified in the agreement and receipt, and this amount is in each case remitted by us, and is placed in trust in the local bank, and paid to the farmer when the contract is signed, after a month's trial has elapsed, and the pupil has signified his satisfaction with the way he is placed; this precaution being taken so that if any change of farm is necessary it can be the more readily made.

Expense of Journey.

The entire cost of the journey to the States or Canada will be covered by from £20 to £26, according to distance and locality selected; it includes first-class cabin on the steamship, first-class railway fares in America, Pullman's sleeping cars, and the whole of the living expenses from the time of leaving Liverpool until the pupil is settled on the farm. Detailed particulars of these expenses, and the fullest instructions as to the journey, are supplied before departure, also letters of introduction to our agents, both *en route* and at their destination, who are advised in advance

of each sailing. At New York they meet the vessel on arrival, assist in passing baggage through the Custom-house, and see the pupils off by train ; the arrangements throughout being so complete that no difficulty or mistake can arise at any stage of the journey.

The only addition to the premium and the cost of the ^{outfit.} journey is the outfit, which need not be large or expensive, but should consist of a supply of winter underclothing, and, in addition to the suits in ordinary wear, such worn clothes as may be hardly suitable for use here, but quite good enough for rough wear. Other clothing can be bought, as and when required, out of monthly pay. They learn thus to take care of their money. It is a mistaken kindness on the part of parents or friends here to send out additional amounts, for it only tends to promote a feeling of dependence upon home instead of one of self-reliance.

The question may arise in the reader's mind, Why should ^{Responsibility of Agency.} any premium be paid ? It is undoubtedly true that young men can seek, and probably obtain, temporary employment for themselves without paying any premium for being properly directed where to go, and for being provided with a settled home on their arrival ; but the attempt has been found dangerous unless they have friends to whom they can apply, and then of course the services of a responsible agent are not necessary. It is very difficult for a young man without advice, in the States, to ascertain the best spot for his purposes ; he would probably hang about large cities where employment is as difficult to find as it is in England, or if he should settle upon some country district he must lodge in hotels, and when successful in finding employment, it might only be of a temporary nature, or with undesirable comrades or acquaintances ; and even if the consequences were not demoralising, the difficulties and expense would be

very considerable. Of course, when experienced in farm life, it would be easy enough to find suitable places, but it is at the commencement that help and guidance are of so much value ; and experience shows that parents are safer in paying a premium to ensure suitable positions, for a certain term, on the arrival of their sons, than in sending them out in a haphazard manner to seek homes for themselves. A strong confirmation of this view is to be found in the fact that parents who have sent sons under our care have, after a fair trial, sent other sons also through our agency.

It should be understood also that the interest this agency takes in those who go out under its care does not cease upon their settlement on suitable farms ; and it is kept informed of, and it reports on, their progress, and endeavours to afford them every advice and assistance. The first few months on a farm is probably the most trying time of all, and pupils are particularly desired, as soon as possible after arrival, to write their views, fully and freely, about the living and the work, to assist our judgment, and to show whether the best arrangements under the circumstances have been made ; so that if for any reason a change seems necessary (as will sometimes happen even where the greatest care has been taken in selection), it may be made without delay, under proper instructions, and before the contract is closed with the farmer. In any case of doubt or difficulty, the pupil should at once seek and follow the advice of our local representative, and should also write immediately to this office. Where any change is made without consulting with the resident agent or ourselves, we cannot undertake to be responsible for the result, although at all times, and under all circumstances, the best thing possible in the interest of the pupil will be done. Our interest in his welfare is identical with his own ; we take every precaution against dissatisfaction or failure that

knowledge and long experience can suggest, and any further modification which appears necessary will at once be adopted.

It is desirable that all who propose to settle in America ^{Qualification for Success.} should thoroughly understand what the life is like. A proper and early understanding of what they may expect has much to do with their ultimate success. Some are sure to say the hardships and difference in living are greater than they anticipated, and others similarly circumstanced will declare that the life is by no means so rough as they expected; all will not meet with the same success, all will not be equally contented. Some, after a thorough trial, may not like the occupation or be fitted for it; but to these, openings in commercial life may present themselves, for such opportunities are more numerous there than in England. Others may not do well, from circumstances over which the agent who places them can have no control; and some few would be of a class who would not succeed anywhere. For the last, the kindest thing their friends can do is to leave them fairly started, entirely dependent on their own exertions, and not to be continually sending them money from home; for no one need suffer want who has ordinary bodily health; and the steadiness which this mode of life will sooner or later ^{Steadiness} beget is an excellent course of training. The moral drawn by Robinson Crusoe, from his experience, will still apply, that "the diligent lived well and comfortably, and the slothful lived hard and beggarly, and so I believe, generally speaking, it is all over the world." *We cannot be responsible for the consequences of irregular conduct*; the system here recommended as a safe training and a valuable opening in life is based upon sobriety, steadiness, and self-control.

We believe that a young man when fairly started should depend for success mainly on his own exertions, and agree with a recent writer in "Scribner" that--

"The young man who is saved from the effort of making his own way in the world and the necessity of establishing his own position, is denied the most powerful stimulus to labour and development. The young men who are coming every year out of the colleges and the professional schools of the country, and starting into active life, will win success or sink into failure mainly in accordance with the amount of stimulus under which their education has been acquired. If they have been obliged to labour until they have learned the value of money ; if they have been forced into close economies, and learned also how difficult it is to keep it ; if they have grown up with the consciousness upon them that everything they hope for in the world must be won by their own unaided force and industry ; if they have acquired thrifty habits and self helpfulness and self trust,—they enter life with great and most assuring advantages."

It is precisely this training which can be found in the occupation we offer ; but though we can carry out what we undertake we cannot always ensure a successful result, nor provide the pupil with a lucrative appointment. We can, as Emerson says, "but accompany the youth to the gate of the arena, for it is certain that, not by any strength of ours but only by strength of his own, must he stand or fall." Unquestionably in some cases, notwithstanding all the care of ourselves and our agents, signal failure has been more or less the result—less when the pupil has simply been disinclined for steady application, more in that of those of dissolute and intemperate habits. But even in these latter and disheartening cases, success is not absolutely hopeless, if friends will be persuaded not to commit the fatal error of continually helping with money young men whom it would be truer kindness to leave to help themselves. The late lamented President Garfield, who rose by his own exertions from the humblest to the highest station in his native country, once observed with homely triteness :—

"Nine times out of ten, the best thing that can happen to a young man is to be tossed overboard and compelled to sink or swim for himself. In all my acquaintance, I never knew a man to be drowned who was worth the saving."

Proper contracts are entered into by us both with the

farmers and the friends of the pupils, and the fullest particulars will be given on all points upon which further information is desired. Whenever it is possible, a personal interview is most satisfactory, for the numerous questions which naturally occur can then be more fully answered and explained than by letter.

Reference will be given to parents whose sons have gone out (many among the number being the sons of clergymen, officers, and members of county families), so soon as it has been decided that this proposed occupation and opening meets the views of the inquirer.

Cheques on London Bankers should be crossed Messrs. Hoare and Co., 37, Fleet Street, London, E.C.; cheques on Country Bankers should be crossed Messrs. Melville, Evans, and Co., 75, Lombard Street, E.C. Solicitors inquiring on behalf of clients are referred to Messrs. Wm. and A. Ranken Solicitors Ford, Solicitors, 4, South Square, Gray's Inn, London, W.C.

APPENDIX.

The subjoined letter is from Mr. Farrar, who wrote to Discussion on the System. some of the papers respecting this method of placing out young men to learn farming in the Western States when it first originated. It is addressed to a former member of the American Colonisation Company. The correspondence which ensued was reprinted in full in the earlier editions of this pamphlet; it is, however, omitted in this issue, at Mr. Farrar's request, because the present letter renders its publication unnecessary.

“DEAR SIR,—

“I thank you for sending me the new edition of your pamphlet entitled ‘Farm Pupils in America.’ It appears to describe Farm Life and Prospects in the West both fully and fairly, the picture certainly

not being in any way overcoloured. I should in fairness say this to you, because last winter I ventured to express a different opinion to some of the London papers, at a time when your arrangements had not the completeness and maturity which they appear to possess now. The test of practical experience is, undoubtedly, the best evidence in favour of your plans, and, in view of the satisfaction which they are found to give, it would be impossible to deny their success.

"I have, as you know, always been strongly of opinion that English settlers should not go out and attempt the business of farming without sufficient practical training, for, if they do, that course will probably lead to a loss, at any rate of some part of the capital they invest. I have no doubt that a year or two's training under a good practical farmer will prove the metal of the young men, and their fitness for a life requiring work. If eventually they do not like the occupation, they will have gained in health, and have been placed in a fair way of becoming frugal and industrious, while if they go through the trial successfully, any capital which their friends can afterwards supply them with to purchase and stock a farm will have many times the value of the same amount of money given them at the start.

"I think your plan of sending these young men to American farmers is the only proper course. I should not recommend any one to go to an English settler who had himself only recently learned the business of American farming; and, so far as my experience goes, what are known as English Colonies in the States, had better be avoided.

"I am, dear Sir,

"Yours faithfully,

"(Signed) J. M. FARRAR, M.A.,

"Official Commissioner for Immigration, Minnesota, and author of 'Five Years in Minnesota.'

"H. F. SHEARMAN, Esq.,

"London, 25th July, 1881."

Whilst the correspondence was going on with Mr. Farrar, the Editor of the "Field" newspaper, in a note appended to one of the letters, says :

"We have no wish to interfere in a case of conflicting interest, but, in justice to Mr. Shearman, it should be stated that he has laid the papers and circulars referred to in his letter before us, and we have failed to see in them anything but straightforward business, and evidence of considerable care on his part."

We should be sorry to be supposed to deny the right of any one to engage in a business open to all the world. It is natural that others should endeavour to imitate our success.

But some who have borrowed our system, without the practical experience on which it is founded, have been driven to copy it too closely. One gentleman in holy orders gives such practical testimony to its merits, that, in entering upon the business, he has not scrupled to take verbatim from our pamphlets and contracts every sentence material to his purpose ; a proceeding so little to be expected from a clergyman, that we are compelled to refer to it lest the want of originality should be ascribed to ourselves.

The method of some of our competitors differs from our own in advocating that sailings should take place in large parties, a plan we abandoned more than two years ago as being in no respect so desirable as frequent sailings in fewer numbers ; for it invariably happens that when large parties go together there will be some whose influence would not be for the good of the rest. Nor are personally conducted sailings necessary, for the arrangements we make for the journey are so complete that the youngest may accomplish it without mistake or inconvenience, and we take every care necessary to ensure the safe conduct of pupils from the time they leave England until they arrive at their destination.

In more or less adopting our system, competitors also usually adopt our terms, although unable to offer the advantages either in choice of locality or arrangements for settlement which experience has enabled us to do ; while some indeed fix a lower charge, expressly stating that they cannot assume any responsibility whatever as to the settlement or future of the pupils ; a system which obviously affords no guarantee or security to parents.

Some systems differ from our own in recommending young men to learn from English gentlemen who have recently settled abroad, and have, therefore, little knowledge of farming ; this plan, which we have referred to on page 8, has a

certain attractiveness ; but whilst it offers, possibly, pleasant homes, it could scarcely turn out good farmers.

A residence in a so-called agricultural college (really only a private establishment) is another plan proposed, as offering the best preparation for American farm-life. There may be something to say in favour of such a training for farming in England, where the system of agriculture is highly artificial, and a knowledge of chemistry, rotation of crops, etc., is essential ; but in America, where agriculture is of a more simple character, the time and money so spent, even if the tuition is good, would be more or less thrown away, and at the end of twelve months less would be known about the real work of the farm than if a pupil had commenced to plough, and plant, and attend to stock under the watchful eye of an experienced practical farmer. If this course is gone through at all, it should follow a practical training on a farm, and then it should rather be at one of the numerous agricultural colleges founded by the respective States or Provinces in which they are situated, and which are usually ably conducted by efficient professors, than at private establishments started as mere speculations.

Both of the above plans, however, entail a heavy annual outlay, whilst the pupil's labour is in the meantime unproductive, and he neither acquires habits of self-reliance nor becomes self-supporting ; nor is it, we believe, desirable that young men should associate in large numbers either on farms or in the so-called colleges of those whose chief income is derived from taking pupils ; they would be under a more healthy influence and better control when placed singly under the care of a practical farmer, whose income is derived from the profits of his farm, and where the best opportunities are offered for practical instruction and future advancement, with the imposed obligation to work, which would ensure regular habits of industry.

We believe that the preliminary training we recommend is based upon right principles, and would prove of real and lasting benefit to the pupil, making him self-reliant and independent, and enabling him to do well in any department of agriculture, and in any State in which he may settle. We purpose, therefore, to follow in the future the system we have adopted in the past. It would be easy, perhaps, for us to send out more young men than we do, if we felt at liberty to offer a less laborious life to sons, even though at a greater cost to their parents ; but this, we are sure, would ultimately result in disappointment and failure. Those we have hitherto sent out have included the sons or relatives of noblemen, officers, clergymen, solicitors, and country and other gentlemen, and wards in chancery, and we are happy to believe that in the case of many for whom no suitable position could be found at home, we have been instrumental in laying the foundation of a manly, honourable, and prosperous future.

The system we have initiated has been very generally commended, and our pamphlets describing it have been prepared with a desire to place the matter candidly before inquirers. In evidence that this object has been obtained, quotations may be given from a few of the numerous letters received from correspondents. A clergyman, in writing on this subject, says :

“I thank you for abstaining from inducing my son to go by any highly-coloured representations of the life there.”

Another writer says of this publication :

“It makes a most candid statement of the facts, dealing fairly with both sides of the question. There is nothing in it to lead me to expect too much without activity.”

A Barrister says of the pamphlet :

“So far as I can judge from its contents, the system you are working upon is the only true one to command success.”

As to the desirability of the life, a gentleman writes :

“ A friend has placed in my hands a pamphlet containing your prospectus (if I may so term it) of an ‘ occupation and business for gentlemen’s sons.’ He did so knowing the great interest I had in things American, acquired during a period of sixteen years’ residence in the States, and also for the purpose of asking my advice in the matter, in the interest of a friend of his.”

“ I have perused the various documents with much interest, and your scheme has my entire approval and if anything I can say or write will induce any enterprising young man to go out, I shall consider that I am conferring upon *him* a great favour.”

“ Your great difficulty, it strikes me, speaking from an English standpoint, is to make them understand how the dignity of labour is respected in the States”

OPINIONS OF THOSE WHO HAVE GONE AND OF THEIR FRIENDS.

It has been suggested by several correspondents that a few of the written opinions of the friends of those who have gone out under our care should be appended, so that inquirers may be able at once to form an opinion upon the testimony of those having actual experience of the life as to the advantage of the openings here proposed. We avail ourselves of this suggestion, which will serve at once to place before applicants some idea of the young men’s opinion of the life, without requiring at an early stage of the negotiation an actual reference to parents, which we do not feel at liberty to give unrestrictedly in the first instance, solely because it would be trespassing unduly on their kindness by asking them to engage in such an extensive correspondence as an immediate reference to them would involve.

One of the pupils, a member of a county family, in a long letter written on October 10th, 1880, states that he is “placed satisfactorily in every way,” and says :

“ Mr. and Mrs. — are as kind as possible to me, and I have to thank you again for the pleasant place you secured for me. It is much better than I ever anticipated.”

The farmer he is with writes on October 9th, 1880 :

“ A — is doing nicely, and seems to be much pleased with everything. We are very much pleased with him, and expect to turn him out an A 1 farmer, should he continue with us long enough.”

The father of this young gentleman writes, November 2nd, 1880 :

"I have had several letters from my son, in all of which he expresses his satisfaction at being placed with Mr. —— . . . I heard from my son that he was 'jolly well settled,' as he called it. . . . I can quite understand that some of your party were disappointed at the prospect of work. My son evidently likes Mr. and Mrs. —— very much, and he says he is very comfortable, and well lodged and boarded ; he takes a great interest in the stock, of which he has now the charge. I should add that my son says in one of his letters that his ideas of roughing it are by no means realised."

And again, on the 26th April, 1881 :

"Two more of my sons are thinking of joining their brother Bob in America, and have only been waiting to hear from him and Mr. M—— definitely. He wrote about a fortnight since—was very well, had been head man for three months in Mr. M——'s absence. The latter also writes that he has been very successful in his stewardship."

An officer's son who went out writes on December 21st, 1880 :

". . . Well, as regards my new home, I could not wish for a more comfortable place. Both Mr. and Mrs. —— are exceedingly kind, and I am sure Mr. R—— has chosen me a very comfortable place indeed ; and as to the work, it certainly is pretty hard at first, but I am getting accustomed to it, and on the whole it is really much better than I ever anticipated."

His father writes on January 20th, 1881 :

"We to-day received a long letter from ——, written in the highest spirits possible. To judge from its tone, he must be very happy and comfortable, and his own words are, 'I like the life very much, and like it better every day.' He speaks in the highest terms of the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. ——, who, he says, are kindness itself. . . . I give you all these details to show you that the boy is really satisfied, and, after all the interest and kindness you have shown him, I know you will be pleased."

And again, in February, 1881, the same gentleman writes :

"You will be glad to hear that —— continues to write in the best of spirits, and expresses himself as fully satisfied and contented."

Another gentleman writes on the 24th January, 1881, respecting a relative who was one of the first to go out :

"I have lately heard from ——, when he seemed well and satisfied with the arrangements as carried out, having been placed with a Mr.

T—. The work was hard, as was to be expected, and though he has since left Mr. T— and joined another farm, it was by mutual arrangement, and he speaks highly of that person and Mrs. T—'s kindness, and has great goodwill towards them both."

One, a gentleman, aged twenty-one, on his arrival, writes on January 25th, 1881 :

"I arrived here all safe and sound after a splendid passage. It was like crossing a mill-pond. We did it under eight days from Queenstown.

"I must say this : that ever since I landed I have met with nothing but kindness, everybody has been most attentive. I like Mr. R— and Mr. C—, what little I have seen of them so far, very much indeed, and they all speak very highly of Mr. V—. . . . I like the country and the people so far very much. I will write you again and tell you how I get on with Mr. V—, but from what Mr. R—, Mr. C—, and Mr. N—, the banker, say, I feel no anxiety on that score."

Two gentlemen, whose sons are on farms, write as follows :

"I write to you to say that my son, in the letters we have hitherto received from him, expresses himself well satisfied with the people with whom you have placed him, and he speaks highly of the attentions he has received from your agents, Mr. C— and Mr. R—.

"You certainly took a great interest in sending my son to a farm like Mr. B—'s, and his letter seems a very happy one. I can only say that I am more than satisfied."

J. G., aged 20, writes, March 20th, 1881 :

"Taking everything into consideration, I like the prospect better than I expected. Mr. D— seems a very nice man, and makes us as comfortable as possible."

H. F. W., aged 24, writes on March 23rd, 1881 :

"I like the change of life and farming immensely. Mr. and Mrs. — are nice, kind, and homely people, and strive to do their utmost to make everything comfortable for me. I never enjoyed better health than I do now. We are constantly having people stopping here, which makes it cheerful. Altogether, I am much pleased with every one and everything I have come across out here."

Dr. H., in a letter dated March 31st, 1881, says :

"I must beg you to accept my best thanks for your kindness generally to my sons, and I am sure they very, very much appreciate all your attentions to their wants," etc.

H. G., aged 27, writes on April 10th, 1881 :

"I had no trouble whatever in getting to W— ; every one you referred me to was as obliging as possible. Mr. C— I particularly

like, and Mr. R—— is a very good fellow. . . . I will tell you what I think of the people and the life. In the first place the house is exceptionally good, and the people are very clean and homely, and make me very comfortable."

G. C., an officer, writes, April 12, 1881 :

"I am glad to let you know at an early date that I think everything with my boy is progressing satisfactorily."

L. E. C., aged 17, writes on the 30th April, 1881 :

"In some respects the life is not so rough as I anticipated, because I expected to be in a location where it would be much rougher and not much civilisation. . . . Mr. G—— is very considerate and nice. . . . His wife is also very nice and kind. I think he thoroughly understands farming and is quite competent in teaching it. . . . I am extremely happy and do not wish for a better place. . . . Both Mr. R—— and Mr. C—— have been exceedingly kind, and did all in their power to make us comfortable."

A lady, whose son, L. E. C., aged 17, sailed in March, writes, May 2nd, 1881 :

"This morning I received a letter from my son, who, I am glad to say, is thoroughly happy and satisfied with everything. He is with Mr. G——; and my boy says I cannot think how nice he is."

A gentleman in Manchester writes on May 5th, 1881, giving extracts from the letter of a relative who went out, and says :

"I may add that Mr. G—— writes in the best of spirits, and is perfectly satisfied in all respects, and his friends are the same. This is a source of great gratification to me, as I was the means of Mr. G—— going out, and of course felt some degree of anxiety as to the result. I shall now have no hesitation whatever in strongly urging any young men who apply to me to go out under your auspices."

Mrs. S. A. writes, June 14th, 1881 :

"I have this morning received a very cheerful letter from my son. . . . He wishes me to tell you he thinks he has a very good berth. . . . He quite thinks he shall get on well when more accustomed to the work, and has no wish to return to England."

Again, October 7th, 1881 :

"My son writes very cheerfully and is quite comfortable in his new home."

The same, December 14th, 1881 :

"My son says he still likes the life very much, and is in good health.

Altogether I am quite satisfied with his position. . . . I shall feel a pleasure in answering any letters of inquiry at any time."

T. G. E. writes on June 27th, 1881, respecting his brother :

"That he is happy, contented, and well, may be gathered from the following extract :— . . . 'I can tell you I am very much fatter since I left England ; I don't think you would know me, being so fat and brown. I like the place very much. I like my place awfully, and should advise G—— to come out. I have seen a lot of our fellows since I have been here, and they all seem to like it.'

A gentleman, who sent out his son some time ago, says :

"I fully agree with you that it would be very injudicious and a rash proceeding on the part of any young man to go out on his 'own hook,' as it were, and take his chance at finding a domicile without the introduction and guardianship of an agency. I did that myself to an English colony some thirty years ago and failed."

E. F., July 2nd, 1881 :

"The soil here is certainly first-rate, but farmers do not seem to raise half such good wheat crops as I should have expected they would. If a man raises about sixteen bushels an acre he thinks he has done pretty well. I shall take a farm of my own next year, and see if I cannot get a little better acreage."

Mrs. E. B—— writes on July 14th, 1881, respecting her son :

"He is very happy, and takes to the life and work. . . . The life just suits him, I think, and I am much obliged for all your trouble."

The following is from a letter received in July, 1881, from a Mr. O. E——, 25 years old, who has gone out as a farm pupil :

"Just a line to say I am getting on very well here. I should have written before, but really I have had no time, and another thing, I wanted to give myself a fair trial before passing my opinion about this country. . . . I like it very much indeed. The people are very nice, but their manners and customs are somewhat different to ours in England ; however, I am getting used to them now. . . . I have got a very good place. I like these people very much, and they seem very well pleased with me. Mr. R—— I think a very nice man indeed ; he has taken a great deal of trouble with us, but he seems to take a great interest in us, and does everything that he can for our benefit. . . . I must say I am very well satisfied with my berth, and have no desire to go home again. I consider you have done and

caused to be done everything in your power to make me comfortable and happy. I am as comfortable as though I were at home. I do almost as I like, I get plenty of riding and shooting; in fact, it seems like a new life altogether to what I have been used to. You are quite at liberty to make any use you like of my letter. I have written home in the same manner as this, and you may refer any one to my brother; you have his address, and I am sure he will have very great pleasure in recommending any one to come out here from what I have said."

Mrs. R. S. B. writes on July 26th, 1881 :

"I have just heard from my son, who says :—'I have been here now six weeks, and like my life very much. It is hard work, but the people all round are very kind to me, and take as much thought for me as if I belonged to them. P—— and I go to church every Sunday, and dine in the town with one family or another, all of whom give us a hearty welcome. I am allowed to take any horse I like out of the stable to ride in my leisure time. The other day J—— P—— and I went for three and a half hours fishing, and caught between 200 and 300 fish.'

"You can make any use you like of this extract. I shall be most happy to answer any questions that may be wished answered by any one proposing to go out under your auspices."

Again, November 4th, 1881 :

"The account of my son is most pleasing, and must, I am sure, be very satisfactory to you also. I am most thankful that he is giving and receiving so much satisfaction. He always writes in the best of spirits; only in his last letter he says—'This is the jolliest life it is possible for any fellow to lead.'"

Again, December 13th, 1881 :

"I must send you a few lines of hearty thanks for the information so constantly sent from America. . . . Some day, when I am able, I should like to call and thank you personally for all your kindness."

J. E., August 6th, 1881 :

"I have two letters now from my son, who has been placed with a farmer named N—— of M——, and he seems very well satisfied so far. Will you kindly accept my thanks, and convey the same to Mr. R—— when you write, for the interest you have both taken in the matter?"

Mrs. M. P. writes, August 30th, 1881 :

"I have just received a letter from my son. . . . I am anxious that you should know at once how happy and comfortable he

is settled, with a very kind farmer in D. C——. He says
 ‘I have been awfully lucky to get on such a nice farm. The farmer and his wife are extremely nice. They are awfully good and kind, and very clean. I shall write and thank Mr. S—— for having arranged everything for me so satisfactorily, and tell him how happy and comfortable I am.’”

Again, on November 8th, 1881, saying that her son

“ Writes most cheerfully and is as happy as possible, and likes his life very much. He speaks most highly of Mr. C——, and their attention and kindness to him.”

Miss E. B., October 28th, 1881 :

“ I beg to tender you my best thanks for the trouble you have taken with my nephew.”

One gentleman, whose son returned home without giving farming a trial, writes :—

“ I am glad to think that, after all, everything has been done by your Company which could have been expected. I was very sorry to find he had given up so suddenly and returned home quite without my knowledge or consent he ought to have remained the year instead of returning so soon. I much regret all the trouble that has been caused.”

W. R., November 7th, 1881:

“ So far the arrangements made with you have been most satisfactorily carried out, and no difficulty has arisen on any one point, and I beg to express my great satisfaction in having been able to place E—— where he may acquire a thorough knowledge of American farming, and an introduction to a new mode of life, and to thank you for the interest you have taken in the matter.”

G. D. W., November 9th, 1881 :

“ I am very sorry my son did not do better. I have always considered your plans and transactions most straightforward.”

Dr. T. H., November 8th, 1881 :

“ Thanks for your letter, with such a very satisfactory account of the progress of my son.”

Again, March 8th, 1882 :

“ I have written to two parties early in the year, just before I left W——, who you referred to me, and gave them what you know to be my good opinion of your process.”

Mrs. J. H., November 9th, 1881 :

"I cannot express the gratitude I feel to your agents in America for their trouble with my son, and I am exceedingly rejoiced to find he has listened to them and been induced to go to work again, and I trust he has made up his mind to be contented."

Again, December 12th, 1881, about her son :

"He is quite comfortable where he is, and likes his work, particularly that which concerns the animals."

This lady is now sending out another son under our care.

Mrs. G. B., November 17th, states that her son

"Is very happy and comfortable, and that he is very kindly treated by Mr. G—, and he hopes, if he suits, that he will be kept on the same farm. He appears to like the work, though he says it is hard. He was in very good health when he wrote at the beginning of the month."

Again, on the 4th January, 1882 :

"I am glad to be able to tell you that I continue to receive very satisfactory accounts from my son in Minnesota. He likes Mr. G— and his family more and more every day. I must thank you for having placed him in such a comfortable home."

And on March 22nd, 1882 :

"I enclose a letter for your perusal which I have received from Mr. B. G—, in which he writes so nicely and kindly of my son. I have also received another very nice, kind letter from Mrs. G—. I am much indebted to you for having interested yourselves so much in my son's behalf. He is so happy, and all the family are very fond of him. My son writes me that he would do anything for them."

T. G. E., December 1st, 1881 :

"We continue to receive letters from my brother almost weekly, and he is very happy and contented. In one of his last letters he states that he has gained 20 lb. in weight since he left England. . . . I think we shall make a man of him now if he only keeps steady and looks to the main chance."

W. E. L., December 13th, 1881 :

"Your communication respecting my nephew gave great satisfaction to all his family, and was, I can truly affirm, a source of great comfort to his mother. I may also mention that the various letters received by Mrs. C— from her son all bore the same happy tone of satisfaction and contentment with his new mode of life, and during my recent visit to Norfolk his friends have repeatedly expressed the pleasure experienced by them that the engagements into which you entered for placing out my nephew should have been so faithfully fulfilled."

Again, March 30th, 1882 :

" My nephew in his last letter gave me a sketch of the way in which his time is occupied day by day, and of the various amusements which vary the ordinary routine of farm life. I gather from all he has written that he is spending his time both usefully and pleasantly."

The Rev. G. F. writes, August 18th, 1881 :

" I have received a short letter from my son telling me of his safe arrival at the farm. He speaks very highly of Mr. C—— and his family, and expresses a hope that as soon as he is settled he shall be very happy indeed."

Again, January 12th, 1882 :

" I had a very nice cheery letter from my boy yesterday. He seems now very happy, and much enjoyed his visit to Mr. T——. I quite agree with what Mr. T—— says about what young men who go out to America must do and be in order to succeed.

" I have received a letter concerning your system from Messrs. M—— and W——. You may depend upon my speaking (as I am glad to be able to do) in the highest terms of gratitude for what you have done for me."

Again, on April 17th, 1882 :

" I am glad to say that I had a happy, cheerful letter from my boy a week ago. He speaks very highly of the kind treatment he receives."

H. D. F., January 25th, 1882 :

" I have to thank you for your letter of 24th inst., forwarding me cheque for £96 16s., being the sum in full which I paid to you as premium and passage money for my nephew, who at the last moment declined to go to Kentucky, as I had wished him to do. I consider it most handsome of you to have returned this sum to me, as you were put to much trouble and some expense in the matter, for which you might justly have charged me. I would add that after the fullest inquiry I convinced myself that the employment offered to young gentlemen through your agency is of the most promising kind for their future advancement in life, and I shall take every opportunity to recommend my friends to apply to you."

Mrs. J. J. M., January 26th, 1882 :

" I have to thank you for your kind and considerate letter, and for the enclosed letter from Colonel H——, which I return. How very kindly the Colonel writes of my son ; it is indeed well for him to have fallen into such good hands."

Messrs. R. and D., Solicitors, Edinburgh, write January 25th, 1882 :

" You are quite welcome to use our name in any of your Scotch cases in which you think we may be of assistance to you."

The Rev. W. V., January 28th, 1882 :

" From the very first I have been very pleased and satisfied with all my correspondence and interviews with you, and shall ever be ready to testify the same whenever appealed to on the subject."

The Rev. M. M. H. writes, March 4th, 1882 :

" I have all along trusted to the arrangements and intentions on the part of your Company as being *bonâ fide*, and have spoken of its fairness and straightforwardness to others."

And again, on April 13th :

" I quite appreciate your considerate attention on the part of the Company throughout the whole of this matter between us."

Again, June 24th, 1882 :

" I shall always have pleasure in reporting well and something more of your attention. . . . I have had more than one letter of inquiry respecting the Company, and have always very much recommended it in reply."

Mrs. A. D., March 26th, 1882 :

" I have received another letter from my son, quite as satisfactory as the one written after he had been out a fortnight. He says he is very happy . . . and feels six years younger in health, and tells me to recommend your agency to all young men leading an idle London life, and to every one anxious to get on."

Mrs. S. C., March 28th, 1882 :

" I have just heard from my son . . . he asked me to let you know that he is very comfortable ; likes Mr. B—— and his wife very much ; they are both kind to him, and though the work is hard and plenty of it, he likes it."

Again, April 14th, 1882 :

" I am very glad my son is going to stay at the same farm ; he likes Mr. B—— so much, and is getting into the work. Will you kindly send one of your pamphlets and particulars to the enclosed address ? "

Again, June 21st, 1882 :

" I often hear of my son, and he seems well content with his life and speaks highly of the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. B——."

Mrs. S. W. K., March 28th, 1882 :

"We received a letter from our son this morning, written in high spirits as regards what he has at present seen of his new life."

Again, May 4th, 1882 :

"I do not doubt H—— will be happy and comfortable where he now is, or at Mr. S——'s, as in his letter he seemed quite satisfied with his surroundings, and Mrs. D——, he said, was very kind to him."

Again, May 8th, 1882 :

"We had a very happy letter from H—— on Saturday. . . . He seems to like his new quarters so much. Perhaps it would be best to let him decide for himself about joining S——."

Mrs. M. S., March 31st, 1882 :

"My son tells me he likes the life very much indeed, that it agrees wonderfully well with him. He names several friends he intends trying to persuade to go out. Should you like to refer any one to me, I shall be very happy to answer any questions, as I can now recommend your system of sending young men out most cordially."

The Rev. G. H. B., April 5th, 1882 :

"My son gives a good account of himself, and of all the provisions you had made for his being met and forwarded on with his luggage. He seems to like his new life very much, and finds his quarters comfortable. . . . He has met several of your young men, who give a pleasant and favourable account of the life, which they seem to enjoy."

Lt.-Col. J. E. K., April 29th, 1882 :

"Each successive step has given us more and more cause for satisfaction with the completeness of your arrangements."

Again, May 22, 1882 :

"I am happy to say that from no one have I heard a word against your institution, except from those who are engaged in a similar occupation. The experience of every one I have seen or heard of seems to be most favourable ; I have, therefore, an easy as well as pleasant task in giving the results of my inquiries to those who ask for them."

Again, June 9th, 1882 :

"There could be no better recommendation of your scheme than is afforded by the tone and contents of your correspondence."

Again, June 14th, 1882 :

"I have had a very nice letter from my son ; the farmer and his wife are most kind to him, and the boy is thoroughly happy and very well."

Again, July 10th, 1882 :

"I have had a most delightful letter from my son this morning . . . he says he is very busy, very happy, and very comfortable."

O. L., May 3rd, 1882 :

"I have a letter from my son at 'Wisconsin,' in which he states he likes his quarters. . . . So far I am perfectly satisfied with your arrangements."

Again, June 22nd, 1882 :

"I thank you very much for your attention. . . . The whole thing confirms my opinion in the advantages of your agency, so much so that I prefer leaving the case in the hands of Major M—— to use his discretion."

Messrs. M. W. and N., Solicitors, 4th May, 1882 :

"We have received one letter from Mr. S—— since he left, in which he spoke most favourably of your arrangements on his behalf, and we are very glad, as also are his friends, that the matter has so fully fulfilled every expectation to the present time."

The Rev. G. E. D., May 8th, 1882 :

"I have now heard from my son. . . . The letter was written in the highest spirits, and shows that so far the writer's experience had been of a very satisfactory nature. . . . I think the farming life will quite suit his tastes."

The Rev. Canon W., May 9th, 1882 :

"In a letter about a fortnight ago my son expressed himself as well satisfied with his quarters. . . . He has made no complaints, seems to like his work, and to be in good health and spirits. He says the country is perfectly lovely where he is."

Colonel W. C. D., May 12th, 1882 :

"I have heard from Mr. C—— several times ; he seems quite happy and contented with Mr. P——."

The Rev. J. W. L., May 15th, 1882 :

"I have just returned from Liverpool on Saturday, after seeing my son start on his outward voyage, and I wish my first act to be a letter to you of thanks for the good selection both of ship and berth. . . .

If only the end of our negotiations is as satisfactory as the beginning, I shall have reason to congratulate myself."

Again, June 23rd, 1882:

"I have heard twice from my son, and he seems to be comfortably placed as far as he can at present judge, and thinks he will like Mr. C—, and be able to get on well with him and his companion."

The Rev. S. A., May 24th, 1882:

"Your letters are so kind and considerate that I shall treat you as a friend, and without troubling you unnecessarily, I shall certainly communicate to you freely on any matter of moment which may require explanation."

The Rev. A. M. G., Edinburgh, June 5th, 1882:

"I had a letter from a young gentleman in England inquiring, very properly, what report my son gives of his treatment by your house and its agents in America. I was very glad that I could truthfully report that you had acted towards my son honestly, honourably, and kindly."

General M. B., June 12th, 1882:

"My son says that he received every attention from your agents, who gave him every assistance. . . . He seems happy, and Mr. W— is very kind to him."

H. J. C., July 8th, 1882:

"B— says they are all very kind to him at Mr. Ames's, and he likes the life very much. He speaks of the people he meets as being much better educated than he expected to find them."

A. M. H., July 9th, 1882

"I have great pleasure in enclosing you an extract from a most cheerful letter I have just received from my son. . . . His letter to-day has been a great satisfaction to me, and I believe he is now in the right place."

The following extracts are from a few of the letters written by pupils to our local agents after their probationary term of about a month on their farms; they are inserted to illustrate the care taken to ensure the selection of a satisfactory farm and comfortable home, a transfer being readily made by our local agents for any just reason before the contract by the farmer is finally closed, or even after the contract, though

experience shows that the need for any such change is exceptional.

R. C., June 5th, 1881 :

"Mr. and Mrs. A—— are very nice people, and everybody speaks so well of them, and I like them very much indeed, and am very comfortable indeed."

E. A. K. and J. F. K., August 6th, 1881 :

"I am satisfied with my place and home, and have agreed to receive five dollars for the first three months, and ten dollars for the other nine months."

A. M., August 6th, 1881 :

"I am glad to say I am quite happy and contented. Whenever Mr. N—— is ready, would you and he settle? Thanking you for your kindness and trouble."

S. J. P., August 7th, 1881 :

"I wrote to remind you that I shall have been here with Mr. S—— a month next Saturday, and to inform you that I have decided to stop, and Mr. S—— agrees to keep me here for the next twelve months."

W. H., August 20th, 1881 :

"I hereby authorise you to settle contract with Mr. G. H——, being satisfied with the farm I have been placed upon."

H. M., 30th——, 1881 :

"Just a line to let you know that I am now willing to abide by the contract you usually make with the farmer by whom we are employed. With kind regards."

W. T. S. H., August 11th, 1881 :

"I have settled to remain with Mr. F——, after having spent a very happy month."

Again (undated) :

"I am now settled in my new home, which is a very jolly one, and I hope that all the others have as good a one."

E. P., August 14th, 1881 :

"We are as happy here and as well cared for as we can possibly wish, and never did we expect to be so happy when we left dear old England; but we are as happy as if we were at home."

E. P. C., August 16th, 1881 :

"I am quite satisfied with Mr. C——, and you may with safety send him the premium. I have told him I am satisfied, and that I have written to you to say so."

C. W. R., September 14th, 1881 :

"I have been at the above address nearly six weeks. I like the folks very much, and intend to stay."

W. F. (undated) :

"I am very much contented with the very nice place you have got me. . . . I am quite contented with Mr. C—— and his family, and I am quite happy here."

W. A., September 16th, 1881 :

"I shall have been here four weeks to-morrow, and as I am very comfortable, I shall be glad if you will make the agreement for me to stay twelve months."

C. W. R. and C. W., September 24th, 1881 :

"We are perfectly satisfied to settle with Messrs. D—— and C——, as agreed with you to-day on the terms we have stipulated."

B. T. S., October 19th, 1881 :

"I am perfectly satisfied with the place you chose for me, and I consider all the arrangements made in England have been fully complied with."

G. W. L. B., November 16th, 1881 :

"I am perfectly satisfied with the farm I am on. Mr. G—— is a very nice farmer, and I like him very much indeed."

G. H. E., November 25th, 1881 :

"First of all I cannot speak too highly of the farmer it has been my fortune to be placed with ; he is an honest, straightforward, hard-working man, and treats me in every respect quite as a companion ; he is, besides, very much better educated than the majority of the men one meets about here. . . . I feel convinced that the time I put in here will be profitably spent. . . . I intend to stick to the work through thick and thin. . . . The great thing is to feel contented, and to make up your mind to work hard and learn everything ; and unless a man makes up his mind to do this, he might just as well stop at home, as he only makes himself miserable and every one else around him. . . . I am in excellent health, and in every way satisfied with my place."

C. S. I., January 9th, 1882 :

“ I like the country very much, and have, through Mr. S——, been introduced to some exceedingly nice people. Mr. S—— and his family are most kind, and I am very comfortable. If he will have me, I shall stay with him, for I know when I am in good quarters.”

T. Q. Q., aged 30, writes January 11th, 1882 :

“ If the interests of the farm pupils you may send out here in future are as well looked after as mine have been, it will be their own fault if they fail to succeed in Canada.”

C. G. S., aged 30, writes January 16th, 1882 :

“ Your agent here has shown me every attention, and has spared neither time nor trouble in endeavouring to secure for me some agreeable and suitable employment, which has now been obtained on Mr. W——’s farm.”

F. C., February 16th, 1882 :

“ I am at Mr. S——’s farm, and I think, if nothing happens, I will stay here after the month. . . . The work is not very hard; of course it seems hard to me at present because I never did a day’s work in my life, but if one takes it easy at first one soon gets used to it. The life is one of the healthiest in the world, and would mend any one’s constitution. All the arrangements you have made are good. Mr. S—— is a nice old gentleman, and one is sure to get on with him.”

Again, May 3rd, 1882 :

“ D—— has come out, and is staying on the same farm as myself. He is a very nice fellow, and we get on very well. S——’s farm is about the best round here, and, as far as I can see, we both have had good luck to come here.”

R. S., March 5th, 1882 :

“ I like the place very much indeed. The farmer and his wife are very kind to me. I have decided to stay here for twelve months. I like the work, what little I have done. I am very much obliged to you for choosing me such a comfortable home.”

C. S. B., March 5th, 1882 :

“ I have now been on Major J——’s farm for five weeks, and from a conversation I have had with the major I think I may safely say that we are satisfied with one another, and I hope you will make the necessary arrangements with him at your convenience.”

H. M., March 9th, 1882 :

"I am very well at present, and like the place very much, especially some of the neighbours. Mrs. P—— is very kind, and does all she can to make me feel at home and comfortable."

B. M. H., March 31st, 1882 :

"I am quite contented to remain on this farm. I am getting on well, and think I shall like the life."

T. C., March 31st, 1882 :

"I am quite satisfied with the way I have been treated since I have been on Mr. C.'s farm, and shall be very willing to stay during the rest of the year upon the arranged. . . . I have already been here nine weeks."

H. S. B., April 10th, 1882 :

"I am quite satisfied with my farm at Mr. C——'s. Please settle the agreement for a year from March 17th, the day I went there."

H. M. N. S., April 14th, 1882 :

"Mr. A—— has kindly agreed for me to stay with him for the term of twelve months, dating from the 13th February, 1882. I would therefore be glad if you would have the agreements signed. I have now been with Mr. Anderson two months, and am sure I shall have every chance for being happy and learning farming well here."

D. F. C. D., April 16th, 1882 :

"Many thanks to you for all the trouble you have taken on my behalf."

E. C., April 22nd, 1882 :

"I am quite satisfied with the situation in which I am placed, and will stay with Messrs. P—— for a year from this date."

A. L. W., April, 1882 :

"I write to ask you to close the contract between Mr. C—— and myself for one year, as we are mutually satisfied."

H. K., April 23rd, 1882 :

"I am very pleased with this place indeed, and both Mr. and Mrs. D—— are very kind to me, and I like them exceedingly. I have a nice comfortable room, and I am perfectly satisfied in every respect, so if Mr. D—— is willing for me to stay, I hope you will make the agreement with him."

R. N. H., May 4th, 1882 :

"I am very comfortable here, and like the farmer very much. I do not think I could be better off or more contented than I am here."

G. E. H. D., May 9th, 1882 :

"I feel greatly pleased with the farm and everything concerning it. The people are nice, the food extremely good and well cooked, and every comfort one could wish for."

H. G. B., April 10th, 1882 :

"I am quite satisfied with my farm at Mr. C——'s. Please settle the agreement for a year from March 17th, the day I went there."

E. C., April 22nd, 1882 :

"I am quite satisfied with the situation in which I am placed, and will stay with Messrs. P—— for a year from this date."

R. N. H., May 25th, 1882 :

"I have the pleasure of informing you that I am thoroughly satisfied with the farm I am on, and shall stay on the same for a year."

H. T., May, 1882 :

"There is nothing I would like better than to have another Englishman on the same farm as I am, and I am perfectly satisfied with Mr. M——'s farm, and I do not think you could have placed me with more gentlemanly people than Mr. M—— and all his family are."

F. G. H. B., June 12th, 1882 :

"I have now completed my month's trial with Mr. A——, and write to say I am more than satisfied with the gentleman we selected. . . . He seems as well satisfied with me as I with him and his family, who are all exceedingly kind, and willing to afford me every help and advice. I like the country, and shall no doubt like it better as I go on. Mr. M—— and Major M—— afforded us every assistance in their power, and we managed very well. If I may make one suggestion without interfering with your plan, I should like to; that is, that the character of the pupils should, as far as possible, be inquired into before sending them out. . . . I know a man close to here who would like to have one if he could get a nice fellow, but he is afraid he might be unlucky and get one like one his neighbour has. I do not mean to say that it is the rule with the men who come out here under your system, but quite the exception. You asked me to express my ideas freely, and I hope I shall not offend by so doing."

E. H. K., June 14th, 1882 :

"I am happy to say that I am in every way satisfied with the farm on which you have placed me. I like Mr. S—— very much, and shall be glad to stay with him for the remainder of the year."

E. H. A., June 14th, 1882 :

"I beg to state that I am very conveniently situated with Mr. A——, and like the place very much."

E. G., June 18th, 1882 :

"At your request I write to you to tell you my experience in M——. I found Major M—— a most agreeable man, and I met with every kindness at his hands. I dare say you know by now that I am placed on Mr. S——'s farm, near O——. I am very comfortable here, and they all treat me very kindly."

A. B. A., June 22nd, 1882 :

"I am perfectly well satisfied with all that has been done for me, and seem to get on all right with the farmer I am with, and shall be very glad to remain with him."

W. L., June 22nd, 1882 :

"I like the farmer I am with very much, and have a very comfortable home. I shall be very glad to remain here a year."

H. E. H., June 22nd, 1882 :

"I am now with a very nice man, who is very kind in showing me everything that ought to be learnt on a farm, and who is especially particular about what would appear to most people small matters, but which are in the end just as necessary as anything else."

The following are the most recent comments on the subject :—

J. G., July 18th, 1882, writes :—

"I have to-day received a note from my nephew. He is much pleased with his farm, and also with the family you sent him to. . . . He is very happy in his new home."

J. C. L. writes, in a letter dated August 27th, 1882 :

"Dear Sir,—I had a very pleasant trip across to New York, and found Mr. M—— at the Custom House when I came off the steamer. He was very kind and obliging.

"I stayed at the Astor House, as there were a lot of fellows I knew going there.

"I left New York on the Monday, as I only stayed there two days, and came right through to Madison—which, by the way, is the prettiest place I have seen.

"Major M—— met me at the station and told me where to go for the night, etc. I like him very well indeed, and I believe he is the right man in the right place, as he does everything in his power for the new arrivals."

L. C. E. F., writes September 6th, 1882 :

'I have much pleasure in saying that I am perfectly happy and comfortable, and in every way satisfied. I have a very nice room and comfortable bed, etc. With regard to instruction, I am able to say it has been given to me in a polite and painstaking way. The usual time of getting up in the morning is five o'clock. One generally gets about one hour and a half rest at noon, going out to work again about one till five, when you have supper, from which you go straight to work again till about sundown, when the horses and other animals have to be fed, etc.

"This is a first-rate life for a young fellow to lead if he is strong and throws himself right into the work."

H. T. M. K., August 30th, 1882 :

"I have heard frequently from my son in Ontario. He writes in good spirits, and enjoys the life he is leading. He says: 'The work at this time of the year is hard; but then he does more than Mr. P—— expects from him, and is determined that he will make himself thoroughly useful, and not be outdone by any one on the farm. He also says, 'Mr. P—— is now giving me twenty dollars a month, which is to continue through the summer, and has promised me ten dollars a month through the winter.' In another letter, received about a fortnight ago, he says: 'I wish I had brought out a gun or rifle and some fishing-tackle, as P—— always goes out for a hunting excursion in the fall for a fortnight or three weeks, and he is going to take me with him to shoot deer and to fish, so I must get a rifle somehow. P—— also hopes to give me a chance of meeting with bears and a few wolves after the harvest.' My son likes the country very much, and, being near a lake, he enjoys the opportunity, which he occasionally has, of boating and swimming, in both of which exercises he is an expert. He further says: 'I have been here just two months, and I do not think that any other life would really have suited me so well, except the army.'"

We have permission to insert the following, which was written by the parent of a pupil in Ontario, to another seeking information :

" 28th Oct., 1882.

"Dear Sir,—I have received a great number of letters from parents anxious to settle their sons, since my second son went to *Canada* in July last, and the same answer may be given in every case. You cannot do better than follow the advice given in the little pamphlet published by the American Colonisation Company, and take your son with you to the office in Finsbury Pavement and talk the matter over with

the people there. My son is with a farmer in Ontario, a Scotchman and thorough gentleman. He and my son get on capitally. My son likes the life, and is already laying by money; not much, 'tis true, but enough to show that the life pays, besides being very enjoyable. Now this farmer's name was given to me by Mr. Shearman, the first that came to hand on his list, with the information that another pupil had declined to go there, because the boy thought the place was too far from a town. My son went there, and, as he says in his letters, 'has fallen on his legs, and no mistake.' Another pupil went to the same part with his father, and when the time came for the father to return, the young gentleman prevailed on his father to bring him back to England. I give you these two instances to show that my son seems to have succeeded where two others failed, and my own experience of more than thirty years out of England, in India and the colonies, goes to prove the same, that it depends entirely on the young men themselves whether they get on or not in the colonies. We hear every fortnight from my son, who ploughs, drives home cattle, milks cows, and looks after horses and pigs, and works with the farmer like our farm labourers in England, and probably much harder, and yet finds time to write long and amusing letters to us, and he and the farmer turn out like gentlemen on Sunday, and go to their respective churches. If young men are steady and not afraid of work, they will succeed, but if they loaf about and take a lot of money out with them, they get into a bad way very soon.

"Yours faithfully,

"G. H. G., Esq. (Signed) "W. H. S., Major-General.

"P.S.—We send our son the county paper every week, and he is only four miles from a town, so I think his two predecessors were rather easily daunted."

The following is from the Episcopal clergyman in one of the districts in Minnesota, where pupils have been placed. This gentleman, who is highly respected in the State, has shown much interest in their welfare, and his letter is in response to a request from us for criticisms or suggestions on the system; the concluding paragraph refers to one or two isolated cases in which much trouble and annoyance has been caused to the agency by the young men having been addicted to habits of intemperance, which they could not be induced to abandon :

"I quite agree with your letter of December 10th. Since my writing I have given thought to particular cases, and I do not see how any better arrangement can be made. As I see more of the young men, I fully agree with what you say on page 7. There are some fine fellows; others of a different character. The friends of some of them ought not to send them money to use at their discretion, for they thereby defeat the very end of their coming here. As you say, they can become self-supporting from the first.

" Every young man who comes to America, and will be industrious, economical, and sober, can succeed, but their friends must not interfere with their habits of self-reliance. I have given the young men good counsel as to our customs, and can be of great service to them if they will allow me to be by being worthy of it.

" Many of the young men in this county are well spoken of. As County Superintendent, I have the best of opportunities to see them, and many of them come in often to church. We had a good number at Christmas at Holy Communion.

" I feel quite sure your agent has done his duty faithfully in locating these lads. Some of them will date their manhood from this point of life.

" As to those who come to America because their friends desire to be rid of them, I fear little can be done for them, but no one is to blame for this but themselves."

The same gentleman, in a letter of the 16th February, 1882, writes :

" Your pamphlet was duly received some weeks since. I do not see how it could be changed for the better. I would think you had taken every precaution possible to protect the young men sent out under your auspices, and those who will succeed elsewhere are doing well. I mean those who are persevering. An industrious young man of energy and a fair education can do well in America."

In a further letter, dated September 4th, 1882, he says :

" So far as I have been able to observe, your agents have selected good places for the young men. In the long sickness of B—— no one could have taken better care of him than Mrs. H—— and her family. I might also mention other instances. The influences surrounding the young men have been good, and every effort has been used to direct and assist them."

The following is from a letter received from our representative in Kentucky :

" Most of the farmers who wish to take pupils hope to obtain one whose superior intelligence and trustworthiness will enable the farmer to some extent to leave the conduct of the farm in his absence to the pupil, when he has learned the mode of farming. If the young men are only to be valued by their physical labour, and their intelligence and integrity are not to be considered, then it would be an exceptional case where their services would be worth as much as an ordinary man accustomed from childhood to farm labour.

" The farmers here, as a class, are intelligent, educated, well-informed men, both as to farming and the general business of the country, as it has been my fortune to find in my travels over a large part of the better farming portion of the world.

" Summing the whole thing up, the future of the pupils sent to Kentucky, in the majority of cases, will be as they themselves make it. I will try and be careful to place them with honourable men and good

farmers, hoping that they will so conduct themselves the first year that the future will be comparatively easy to them.

"With regard to the size of the farms, if I had a son I wished taught farming, I would infinitely prefer putting him with some intelligent, honest, good farmer, owning from 100 to 200 acres of land, who worked himself a portion of the time, and did not depend on managers; there the pupil would be intelligently educated, and would not see the extravagant high living that he would see on those large farms of 500 to 1,000 acres."

In regard to the advantages offered by some of the Southern States, the following are quoted from Official communications:

The Commissioner of Agriculture of the State of North Carolina writes, 17th August, 1881:

"I am instructed by His Excellency, Governor Jarvis, to express his cordial approbation of the scheme unfolded in your letter; he regards it as one at once practical in its nature, and in its design calculated to accomplish great good. The Governor thinks that a young Englishman can nowhere in the continent find a better theatre for a useful career. With reference to the tone and popular feeling here with regard to labour and the estimate in which it is held, I beg to direct your attention to an address of our Governor, delivered at Randolph Macon College in June last past. As the utterance of one of the great practical intellects of our State, and one who by position and talent is its proper exponent, it will have for you a just significance."

The Director of the Geological Survey of Kentucky writes as follows, regarding this system, 3rd September, 1881:

"I believe you have the right plan, and that much loss and disappointment will be avoided by young Englishmen who will come to this country and remain at work on a farm before investing. I believe that Kentucky offers peculiar advantages for putting in practice such a work. In Central Kentucky the farm-houses are larger and better than I have seen elsewhere in America; the farmers are very intelligent, and are celebrated for their good living. Agriculture is also more diversified, and the farm student can here learn all kinds of farming, and also stock-breeding, from the most intelligent breeders in America.

One of our United States Senators came to Kentucky a poor Scotch lad, and went on a farm at ten dollars per month. I will take pleasure in co-operating with you in your good work."

The Hon. John S. Williams, United States Senator for Kentucky, writes as follows :

“ UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER,
“ WASHINGTON, October 13th, 1881.

“ DEAR SIRS,

“ I think well of your plan of introducing into Kentucky young Englishmen who wish to learn American modes of business. I think Kentucky the most desirable of all the States of the Union for the better class of English emigrants. The Kentuckians are nearly all descended from English ancestors, and have still strongly-marked traits of English character. There is a striking resemblance between the blue-grass region of Kentucky and some of the best portions of England.

“ As an agricultural and stock-raising country, Kentucky has no equal on the American continent. The other States all come to Kentucky for their fine horses and cattle. Not an American horse has won a race in England that did not come from Kentucky. The soil is of surprising fertility, and the climate so mild that men may work on our farms every day in the year. Geological survey shows that Kentucky has more coal and iron than the whole of Great Britain. The farmers of Kentucky, as you must have observed, are superior to those of any other State of our Union. Kentucky is the only State where the rich and educated people reside upon and cultivate their own farms. I am a farmer myself, and produce tobacco, wheat, Indian corn, sheep, and short-horn cattle; and within the last year have sold from off a farm of 1,200 acres 32,000 dollars' worth of products, without touching a short horn, and this without any artificial manure. I usually get 100 bushels of Indian corn, 35 bushels of wheat, 75 bushels of oats, and 1,500 pounds of White Burley tobacco to the acre.

“ I sold a few weeks since my last year's crop of tobacco at a price which averaged me 300 dollars to the acre. I gave the tenants one-half for their work, which left me 150 dollars clear rent to the acre. Our climate is healthy, and nowhere in the world is animal life, both in man and the lower animals, to be found in a more vigorous and perfect existence than in Kentucky.

“ Very truly yours,

“ JOHN S. WILLIAMS.”

“ KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION,

“ JOHN R. PROCTER, Director.

“ FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY,

“ October 10th, 1881.

“ DEAR SIRS,

“ I am instructed by His Excellency, The Governor of Kentucky, to inform you that the plans of the *American Colonisation Company*, of London, England, proposed and submitted by you, meet

with his warm approval, and that he will co-operate with you in your endeavours to send young men to this State. He believes that the geographical position of Kentucky, its salubrity of climate, fertility of soil, and great undeveloped wealth in coal, iron, and timber, make it a most desirable field for the introduction of foreign labour and capital. To persons seeking pleasant homes or remunerative investments in this State he extends a cordial invitation, with the assurance of a warm welcome. As Director of the Geological Survey and Bureau of Immigration, I beg to assure you of my hearty co-operation, and will spare no efforts necessary to aid in furtherance of your plans.

“Respectfully yours,

“JOHN R. PROCTER, State Geologist.

“Approved,—LUKE V. BLACKBURN, Governor of Kentucky.”

Visitors may see at an interview any of the letters quoted in this pamphlet, as well as numerous others on the same subject; the fullest inquiry is invited into the working of the system and the nature of the organisation.

The American Colonisation Company is a private undertaking, having a complete organisation on both sides of the Atlantic, enabling it to offer a thorough fulfilment abroad of every contract entered into here.

Solicitors may refer in the first instance to Messrs. Wm. and A. Ranken Ford, No. 4, South Square, Gray's Inn, London; and Bankers to Messrs. Hoare and Co., 37, Fleet Street, London, E.C., and to Messrs. Melville, Evans, and Co., 75, Lombard Street, E.C.

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FORD, RATHBONE, & WALTER,
THE
AMERICAN COLONISATION COMPANY
21, FINSBURY PAVEMENT,
LONDON, E.C.

(Close to the Moorgate Street Station of the Metropolitan Railway.)







